

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00843 291218Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05

/037 W

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R 291135Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4188

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA SECURITY

1. BY ALL INDICATIONS, COL. ALEMAYEHU DESTA, NEW CO OF SECOND DIVISION, IS MOVING PROMPTLY TO TIGHTEN SECURITY CONDITIONS AND RAISE MORALE OF TROOPS.

2. UNIT IN MASSAWA IS BEING RELIEVED. EIGHT TRUCKLOADS OF A FRESH UNIT DROVE TO MASSAWA THREE DAYS AGO. ALTHOUGH DUTY IN MASSAWA IS NOT PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS, THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ARE UNATTRACTIVE FOR TROOPS; THIS IS FIRST REPLACEMENT OF TROOPS IN RECENT MEMORY.

3. NEW TROOPS ARE BEING FORMED FROM BOTH CITY POLICE AND CUSTOMS (FINANCE) POLICE. REPORT IS THAT THOSE AGE 35 AND UNDER ARE BEING SENT TO ADDIS FOR 2-3 WEEKS OF COMBAT TRAINING AND MERGED
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INTO FLAME DIVISION UNITS. (SEE USDAO ADDIS ABABA 0563 DTG 281230Z OCT 76 NOTAL)

4. ATMOSPHERE AT SECOND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS IS MORE SOLDIERLY. TROOPERS WITH FLAME DIVISION PATCHES ARE NOW ON GUARD IN MACHINE-GUN JEEPS AT ENTRANCE TO COL. ALEMAYEHU'S OFFICE. WHILE WE CANNOT CONFIRM REPORTS YET, IT SEEMS THAT MORE FLAME DIVISION UNITS ARE ARRIVING AND SOME SECOND DIVISION UNITS ARE LEAVING. MOREOVER, SOME PARATROOPERS ARE BACK IN TOWN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MID-SUMMER.

SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PROVINCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASMARA00843
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760404-0920
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976107/aaaaaexi.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASMARA SECURITY
TAGS: PINS, ET, (ALEMAYEHU DESTA)
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006